The Builder.

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KNOWLEDGE of the materials employed in building, and the natural laws which regulate their constitution, are essential, we may say indispensable, to form a good architect. We earnestly recommend our younger readers at once to make the acquirement of this knowledge, or rather the fitting of themselves for *easily* acquiring it, one of their recreations. It need be nothing more; it will not increase their daily duties, but lighten them; and will be found hereafter a constant source of gratification and enjoyment, independent of its value to them in a professional point of view.

"Those who possess the genuine spirit of scientific investigation," says Dr. Young, "and who have tasted the pure satisfaction arising from an advancement in intellectual acquirements, are contented to proceed in their researches without inquiring at every step what they gain by their newly-discovered lights, and to what practical purposes they are applicable; they receive a sufficient gratification from the enlargement of their views of the constitution of the universe, and experience in the immediate pursuit of knowledge, that pleasure which others wish to obtain more circuitously by its means. And it is one of the principal advantages of a liberal education, that it creates a susceptibility of an enjoyment so elegant and so rational."

Nor will the practical purposes to which their "newly-discovered lights" are applicable, be long unseen. Mechanics, statics, hydraulics, hydrostatics, the properties of heat, chemistry, geology,—will all be found to bear greatly and immediately on the object of their special attention; and a knowledge of these sciences *must* be acquired by the rising architects, if they wish to practise their profession satisfactorily, and not see the body to which they belong, merge into one on either side of it now closely and unceremoniously shouldering it. This latter is not an idle fear, but of serious import, demanding the thought of every architect. We shall proceed to its consideration on another occasion; our object on the present is, to advise our student-readers to take such a course as may tend to avert it.

Every one has read the long list of attainments considered necessary for an architect, by Vitruvius, but very few seem to think that the same are as needful now as they were then: indeed, we are strongly led to believe, that general knowledge is less sought for or attended to, by architectural students at this time, than it was ten years ago: their whole attention has been led by the fashion of the times to one particular point, to the neglect of many others. Once it would have been impossible for a man to acquire even a general knowledge of the sciences alluded to,—natural philosophy, in short, without the devotion of years; but now it is a matter of no difficulty, and for a long time has not been so. As a first step, let our young reader take Dr. Arnott's delightful "Elements of Physics," and we will undertake to say, even if his attention has never been directed to the subject before, that by the time he has mastered its contents he will regard all nature with increased interest; every object in his walks will present a different appearance from what it before took, and he will have a glimmering of truths in connection with the practice of building to which, until then, he had been blind.

The lecture-rooms of any of the popular literary institutions will give him, at little cost of time or money, an insight to all the sciences, and shew him how he may successfully increase his knowledge of them. What we have thus briefly recommended to the architectural student is applicable to the builder and the operative,—to whom such knowledge is of equal importance. The first, however, being supposed to have more time and means, would pursue his studies further, and so maintain legitimate authority over those he would be called on to direct. If he pause on the threshold, and allow others with fewer opportunities to pass into the temple, he may expect, and will deserve, to find himself (as he assuredly will) a follower instead of a leader. Those who do not keep in advance of the crowd must expect to have their heels trodden on; and if they had an advantage given them at starting, and failed to use it, will meet with no pity when they lose the race.

We commend these words, with all respect, to the consideration of some in the profession who have long ceased to be students.

DO THE CITIZENS REGARD THEIR ANTIQUITIES.

SIR,—At a meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects on Monday last, a report of which appears in THE BUILDER of to-day, Mr. Tite complained of my having interfered, in the year 1841, with the "City-Authorities," or with the "Joint Committee of Gresham Affairs," and obstructed them in collecting antiquities discovered on the site of the Royal Exchange. I have before me, *a verbatim* and authenticated report of Mr. Tite's speech, which differs considerably from that published in your paper. Mr. Tite stated that I offered sums of money for coins, &c., that a great deal that ought to have belonged to a public collection had gone to enrich my private cabinet, and further, Mr. Tite refers to my papers in the *Archæologia* as conveying accusations against the "City Authorities" for interfering with me and my researches, when, in point of fact, he says, it was I who interfered with them and their researches! It is rather remarkable that Mr. Tite should have allowed so many years to elapse before he adventured to rebut my assertions and to advance counter charges, especially as, during the long course of my attempts to record discoveries of antiquities made in and about the city, I have never shrunk from openly denouncing, less the apathy of the corporation towards their ancient monuments, than the obstacles they threw in the way of those who sacrifice their time, in endeavouring to preserve or record those doomed to destruction. Mr. Tite does not venture upon the history of the discoveries made during the last fifteen or twenty years, but he refers to what he states took place in making excavations for the New Royal Exchange. To that brief period of operations upon a comparatively small spot of ground, I will, for the present, confine my remarks in reply to his accusations.

With the hope of being permitted to make free use of my eyes and pencil during the progess of the works, without liability to encounter such offensive hinderances as from time to time, when attempting to make sketches or elevations, I had long been subjected to, I called upon Mr. Tite at his office, and asked him to favour me with a written passport, for free ingress and egress to and from the works at such times as I could make it convenient to attend. This request he courteously granted, and at the same time said he trusted I should not interfere with the workmen to obtain possession of any objects that might be brought to light, as the Joint Gresham committee wished to preserve every thing for themselves. I replied, that I was delighted to hear there was an incipient disposition in the city to conserve its ancient monuments; that I should be quite satisfied in finding that such ancient remains as might be found would really be preserved, and moreover, that collecting antiquities for the mere sake of collecting, was a feeling unknown to me. I rigidly adhered to my promise, but, to my surprise, I soon ascertained that Mr. Tite's passport was totally useless to me, and that even in his presence, it did not protect me from abuse, and threatened personal violence from people under his authority, or that of the Joint Gresham Committee. The full particulars of the outrageous conduct I was subjected to almost upon my first visit to the Exchange, after receiving this order from Mr. Tite, are detailed in a letter addressed to the Joint Committee of Gresham affairs, and delivered into the hands of their clerk, Mr. James Barnes, on the 16th of February, 1841. To this letter I refer Mr. Tite, as it would be too long to insert on the present occasion in your columns, and I will content myself with briefly telling the result of the order.

The first time I visited the Exchange after receiving it, was on my return to London, after a sojourn of some days in the country. Upon no previous occasion did I ever encounter such gross and unprovoked abuse as upon the present, when under the *protection* of Mr. Tite's *order*. The foreman not only used the most violent language, but he also threatened to expel me by force if I delayed to leave the works. He laughed at Mr. Tite's order, and asserted that *he also had his orders*, and was prepared to execute them! Willing to ascertain if Mr. Tite's order would be enforced, I again presented myself, and in the presence of Mr. Tite, had to suffer a repetition of the previous outrage, Mr. Tite upon my appealing to him, coolly saying he could do no more!! This *order* then was perfectly useless to me; it was scouted by the menials, and Mr. Tite seemed to possess no control over them, or was himself under the influence of some superior power, for not a shadow of a pretext could with any reason be urged against me for infringement of rules and regulations; on the contrary, I had already been instrumental in reclaiming and securing some articles for the collection now deposited (I understand) in the London Institution. The power of architects in the city is not always so limited. Mr. Cockerell having granted me permission to visit the excavations made on the site of St. Bartholomew's Church, the same superintendent, who, on the other side of the street, within the jurisdiction of Mr. Tite, was permitted (if not instructed), to annoy me, attempted to obstruct my entrance to the premises. Mr. Cockerell, however, with manly consistency and decision, threatened to discharge any individual who, contrary to his orders, should dare to molest me, and, I need scarcely add, his commands were never disputed. The assistance afforded me by this gentleman was given, moreover, with such good nature and kindness, as to make me feel he was as much obliged in granting the privilege, as I in receiving it.

As I was not inclined to suffer bodily martyrdom on the site of the New Royal Exchange, I desisted from visiting it, until I perceived that hundreds of persons were daily indiscriminately admitted *without* orders, when I occasionally mixed in the crowd for a few minutes, or, after awhile, was tolerated by Mr. Russell, the clerk of the works (whose politeness I willingly acknowledge), and thus managed to make the few observations printed in the *Archæologia*; but which, scanty and imperfect as they are, comprise every thing that has yet been published relative to the discoveries made on this spot. During the entire period of the operations, I rigidly forbore even from speaking to the workmen, except in a few instances, when I made myself instrumental in inducing them to take objects of antiquity to Mr. Russell, to whom I also forwarded some coins which had passed into other hands from the excavators, and subsequently were offered to me. But I regret to say, that the regulations referred to by Mr. Tite, were the cause of many interesting matters being carried off by the workmen, and dispersed beyond the hope of ever being made available to science; and I much doubt if the chief mass of antiquities collected, ever reached the London Institution. I have understood that people who had access to the room in which they were at first deposited, could not refrain, in the

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